

~~Bachman~~ Sullivan House  
3617 O Street, N.W.  
(Georgetown)  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-189

HABS,  
DC,  
GEO,  
125-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## SULLIVAN HOUSE

Location: 3617 O Street, N.W., (Georgetown), Washington, D.C.  
Present Owner: President and Directors of Georgetown College (1969).  
Present Occupants: Mr. and Mrs. James T. Williams (1969).  
Present Use: Residence (1969).

HABS,  
DC,  
GEO,  
125-

Significance: This simple frame dwelling, built at the same time as 3615 O Street, is a fine example of the type of house resided in by Washington's laborers and small businessmen in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It was originally occupied by its owners and later used as rental property.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1863-1870. In 1863 the western portion of Lot 112 (with a 40 foot front on Second Street) was sold for \$100. The 1865-1870 tax records list "two new two-story frame houses" as improvements on this portion of the lot, valued at \$2,000. In 1870, the westernmost portion of the lot (with a 20 foot front) was sold for \$1,300, indicating that it included one of the houses, the present 3617 O Street.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: The building is located in the western part of Square 1248, Lot 805 (formerly Square 78, Lot 112 in Threlkeid's addition to Georgetown). O Street was originally called Second Street, but the original address is unknown. The following is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the structure stands. Reference is to the office of the Recorder of Deeds, Washington, D.C.

- 1860 Joseph Weaver and wife, Catherine to Timothy Sullivan. Deed May 19, 1860. Recorded June 12, 1860. Liber JAS 199, folio 273. Consideration \$1150.
- 1863 Timothy Sullivan and wife, Bridget to John Sullivan. Deed August 13, 1863. Recorded January 6, 1864. Liber NCT 23, folio 275.
- 1870 John Sullivan and wife, Ellen to Jeremiah Sullivan. Deed February 18, 1870. Recorded May 31, 1870. Liber 614, folio 389.
- 1895 Jeremiah Sullivan died on Decemoer 13, 1895, bequeathed his entire estate to his wife, Ellen. Will December 21, 1895. Probated December 23, 1895. Will Book 39, page 289.
- 1937 Ellen Sullivan died (intestate) December 17, 1937, leaving her estate to her four children and to three grandchildren.
- 1944 Josephine Sullivan, James J. and wife, Harriet S. Sullivan, Jeremiah and wife, Ellen A. Sullivan, Lillian E. Sullivan, Robert A. Cox, unmarried, Ann Marie Briggs, Regina Cox Katalinas to Josephine Elko Williams. Deed January 24, 1944. Recorded February 9, 1944. Liber 7938, folio 375.
- 1965 Josephine Elko Williams and husband, James T. Williams to The President and Directors of Georgetown College. Deed November 30, 1965. Recorded May 23, 1966. Liber 12614, folio 387.

4. Alterations and additions: Facade resurfaced with new siding.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Jeremiah Sullivan, who bought the house in 1870, was a "cartman", and is listed from 1874 to 1893 as a grocer in city directories. His shop is cited at different addresses on Second Street. In 1881 it was listed as 3617 O Street, so it is possible that his shop was in his home. Several houses on Second Street were occupied during the late nineteenth century by members of the Sullivan family. During the early twentieth century, the house was rented, and tenants were predominantly laborers.

C. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Census Records Washington, D.C., National Archives, Microcopy T-6, Roll 47 (1850), p. 332, Microcopy T-8, Roll 32 (1870) p. 35, 36, 43.

Record Group 351, National Archives, Records of the City of Georgetown (D.C.), 1800-1879: Assessments of Real and Personal Property, Microcopy 605, Roll 7 (1800-1807), Roll 8 (1808-1812), Roll 9 (1813-1818), Roll 36 (1862-1864), Roll 12 (1865-1870).

Register of Wills, Washington, D.C., Will Book 39, page 289.

City Directories:

Boyd's Directory of the District of Columbia, 1872, p. 526; 1874, p. 618; 1876, p. 512; 1877, p. 658; 1885, p. 787; 1894, p. 938.

Boyd's District of Columbia Directory, 1914, pp. 1657, 1064; 1920, pp. 1812, 1541; 1925, pp. 1848, 1535; 1930, p. 1989; 1935, pp. 499, 2434; 1940, pp. 275, 1977; 1943, pp. 194, 1220.

Polk's Washington City Directory, 1948, pp. 139, 1231.

The Evening Star (Washington, D.C.), December 14, 1895; December 17, 1937, p. A-14.

Prepared by Volunteers for the  
Commission of Fine Arts  
Washington, D.C.  
1968

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: At one time a twin to 3615 O Street, this house retains for the most part its earlier plan. Although its facade has been resurfaced, the west side still has the original extremely wide weatherboarding. It is a simple, unassuming, two-story clapboard house.

2. Condition of fabric: Fairly good; some areas in need of paint, some wide weatherboard split and loose. West wall completely unpainted.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 16'-0" by 35'-0". Two bays across O Street facade. Small rear kitchen ell. Two stories high.
2. Foundation: Brick.
3. Wall construction: Wood frame.
4. Porches: Small wood shed roof over back door, brick paving of terrace continues to form porch floor (not raised). Front stoop is semicircular brick, two risers high.
5. Chimneys: One large central chimney, one small one at rear off kitchen ell.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doors and doorways: Door has two small horizontal panels at bottom and one large top panel of painted glass. There is a small-light transom. The door has a wide flat board trim.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Six-over-six-light double-nung sash. Louvered wood shutters on front.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: Gable, ridge running east-west; metal covering.
  - b. Framing: Wood.
  - c. Cornice: Wide wood box cornice with bed molding; hanging metal gutter.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: First floor has one room across front, one room across rear, and kitchen in small addition off northeast corner. Second floor has one bedroom across front, one in rear, and a bathroom. There is a full attic storage room and partial basement under dining room, both with access stairs.
2. Stairways: Ascends from north to south along east wall of rear rooms. Originally enclosed with wide boarding, the first to second floor run has been opened up and had an old rail from elsewhere inserted.
3. Flooring: Wide, random width pine.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, painted.
5. Doors and doorways: Simple four-panel doors with flat trim.
6. Decorative features and trim: Very heavy nineteenth century mantel pieces of a simple design; flat wood trim; no cornices.
7. Heating: Furnace in modern basement.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: One of several houses of similar scale on the north side of O Street. No front yard; ample rear yard.
2. Enclosures: Rear yard enclosed with wood fence. Board gate access to rear yard from street.
3. Walks: Brick paved terrace in rear, brick walk on west side of house.
4. Landscaping: Simple residential planting.

Prepared by The Office of  
Walter G. Peter, Jr., AIA  
Architect  
October 30, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION:

These records were prepared as part of a project to record structures in the western part of the Georgetown Historic District in Washington, D.C. The project was conducted by the Commission of Fine Arts with the cooperation of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The resulting documentation was donated to HABS by the Commission and published in 1970 in HABS Selections Number 6, "Georgetown Architecture--Northwest: Northwest Washington, District of Columbia." Research for the project was conducted by volunteers under the supervision of Miss Nancy Black, staff member of the Commission of Fine Arts. Architectural information was prepared by the office of Walter G. Peter, Jr., AIA. The photographs were taken by J. Alexander. The data was edited and prepared for transmittal to the Library of Congress by HABS architectural historian Emily J. Harris in 1979.